UCLA Faculty Association

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Friday, July 11, 2025

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 31

From Inside Higher Ed: *In the latest volley in the Trump administration's war with Harvard University, federal agencies told Harvard's accreditor the university is violating antidiscrimination laws, while Immigration and Customs Enforcement will subpoena Harvard's "records, communications, and other documents relevant to the enforcement of immigration laws since January 1, 2020." The Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security announced these moves Wednesday in news releases replete with condemnations from cabinet officials.*

The pressure comes as Harvard still refuses to bow to all of the Trump administration's demands from April, which include banning admission of international students "hostile to the American values and institutions inscribed in the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence, including students supportive of terrorism or anti-Semitism." In May, DHS tried to stop Harvard from enrolling international students by stripping it of its Student and Exchange Visitor Program certification, but a judge has blocked that move.

Education Secretary Linda McMahon said in a Wednesday statement, "By allowing antisemitic harassment and discrimination to persist unchecked on its campus, Harvard University has failed in its obligation to students, educators, and American taxpayers. The Department of Education expects the New England Commission of Higher Education to enforce its policies and practices." (Only the accreditor can find a college in violation of its policies.) ...

If Harvard were to lose its accreditation, it would be cut off from federal student aid. In another statement, Harvard officials say they are complying with the New England Commission of Higher Education's standards "maintaining its accreditation uninterrupted since its initial review in 1929." ...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/students/free-speech/2025/07/09/feds-target-harvards-accreditation-foreign-student-records.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Harvard, politics

You know better than to respond to this text, don't you?

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- Delay the UC cybersecurity mandate

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- The onto-epistemic limits of current American academic debates, Or what the modern West can't think (Guest Post) - 7/25/2025
- Liner Note 33. Trouble at the Irvine Core (UC Irvine Part 2) - 7/12/2025

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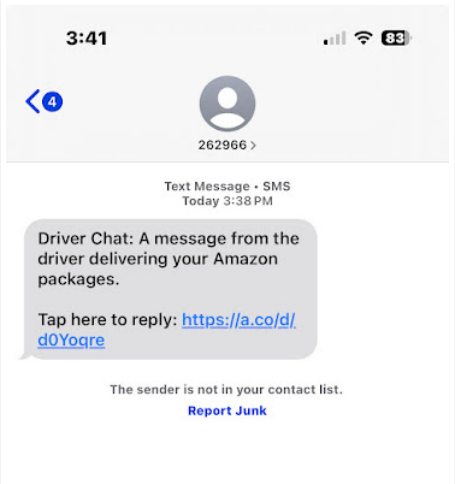

Or course you do!

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: ema

Straws in the Wind - Part 36

From Forbes: *Indiana University-Bloomington is ending more than 100 of its academic degree programs. The massive restructuring comes after the state passed a budget bill introducing several new public higher education policies, including one involving minimum thresholds for degree productivity. The programs on the list to be phased out include those at the undergraduate and graduate level and span multiple disciplines, such as education, the arts and humanities, foreign languages and some sciences.*

One of the budget bill's provisions — inserted by the Republican majority as the legislative session reached its final hours — established a minimum average number of graduates that degree programs at Indiana's public colleges and universities must produce over a three-year period. If that number falls below 10 students in an associate degree program, 15 students in a BA program, seven students in master's degree program, and three students in a doctorate degree program, the institution would have to request permission from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education to continue offering the program. The university would need to eliminate the program if the commission does not grant that permission...

Full story at https://fortune.com/2025/06/30/ford-ceo-jim-farley-henry-ford-playbook-union-wages/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Indiana University, politics

More Fiddling With Librarian Definitions

We noted an effort to correct what were said to be typos in various definitions applicable to UC librarians back in late March. This seems to be an ongoing thing, for unclear reasons. See below:*

June 30, 2025

Amy K. Lee, Deputy Provost, Systemwide Academic Personnel

Monica Varsanyi, Vice Provost, Faculty Affairs and Academic Programs

Re: Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Revisions to APM - 360 - Librarian Series

Dear Deputy Provost Lee and Vice Provost Varsanyi,

As requested, I distributed for systemwide Academic Senate review the proposed revisions to Academic Personnel Manual (APM) - 360. Nine Academic Senate divisions and three systemwide committees (UCPB, UCFW, and UCAADE) submitted comments. These were discussed at the Academic Council's June 25, 2025 meeting, and the compiled feedback is attached for your reference.

We understand that the intent of the revisions is to address ambiguities introduced in the 2016 version of APM - 360 and to more accurately reflect the original intent and ensure consistency with University policy—not to redefine the role of the librarian series. The Academic Council

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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

appreciates this effort. Senate feedback reflects concerns with several elements of the revisions.

Instructional Role of Librarians: The proposed substitution of “instruction” with “training and resources” in APM - 360-4(c) was a concern among some reviewers. Reviewers noted that instructional activity has been a longstanding function of academic librarians, who may participate in for-credit courses, curriculum development, and classroom-based instruction. Revisions to APM-360 should not inadvertently devalue librarians’ educational contributions and weaken their connection to UC’s teaching mission.

Council members were strongly supportive of revisions that clarify APM - 360 does not confer or imply instructor-of-record status to librarians. Yet in recognition of the role librarians play in teaching research methods and information literacy, restoring “instruction” with clarifying modifiers, such as “library instruction” or “instructional resources,” should be considered.

Research and Creative Activity: Another concern among some reviewers is the proposed change in APM - 360-4(d) from “carrying out research and creative activity” to “acquiring information and knowledge.” This change may be viewed as diminishing the scholarly contributions of librarians.

While peer-reviewed research is not a required criterion for advancement in the librarian series, creative activities should be encouraged. Council members and reviewers recommended maintaining the existing language or using a broader phrase that acknowledges the diverse scholarly activities of librarians, such as, “other scholarly or creative activity, including research.”

Definition of Work Location: The addition of the phrase “in the University campus libraries” to clarify the scope of librarian services was seen as overly narrow. Reviewers noted that librarians increasingly work in classrooms, research centers, affiliated locations, and remote environments, providing critical support for both in-person and digital scholarship. Several reviewers recommended alternative phrasing such as “library-affiliated locations” or “other University venues” to better reflect the actual scope of librarians’ work.

Policy Consultation Process: *Several divisions raised concern about the consultation process with the Librarians Association of the University of California (LAUC) and the Council of University Librarians (CoUL). In 2016, the consultation process was apparently wider, which culminated in the 2016 revisions. Some perceive revisions to APM - 360 are being framed as “error corrections,” which contributed to process concerns. Further engagement is recommended.*

Systemwide Committee Opinions: UCPB, UCAADE, and UCFW submitted letters in support of the proposed revisions.** These committees agreed that clarifying the distinction between faculty and librarian roles helps sharpen evaluation criteria and broaden recognition of librarians’ diverse contributions. They viewed the changes not as limiting to librarians, but as protective and inclusive of the full range of librarian work.

The UCFW letter in particular received support during the Council’s discussion. UCFW emphasized that the revisions provide librarians with more flexible career pathways, allowing them to be recognized for outreach, training, and service without requiring conformity to traditional faculty teaching or research models. UCFW supported replacing “instruction” with “training” to reduce ambiguity and avoid conflating librarian duties with Senate faculty instructor of record roles.

Regarding research, UCFW noted that while some librarians produce peer reviewed scholarship, requiring this of all librarians risks imposing expectations inconsistent with the purpose of the series. The revised APM - 360 preserves the option for librarians to pursue research while allowing others to be evaluated on the basis of valuable contributions in practice and service.

Council members agreed that librarians should be recognized and rewarded when they engage in instructional or research activities but should not be penalized for focusing on other core responsibilities. There was support for appointing librarians to Senate instructional titles when appropriate, if they seek to serve as instructors of record for credit-bearing courses, to ensure alignment with Senate oversight of instruction.

Conclusion: Overall, the Senate supports proposed revisions to APM– 360 with the following recommendations:

• Reconsider or revise the proposed changes to APM - 360-4(c) and (d) to ensure they do not devalue librarians’ instructional and scholarly work, while preserving evaluation flexibility for librarians whose primary contributions lie in other areas.

• Revise or remove the phrase “in the University campus libraries” to more accurately reflect the varied environments in which librarians perform their work.

• Encourage librarians who wish to serve as instructors of record for credit-bearing courses to hold concurrent instructional titles when appropriate, in keeping with Senate oversight of instruction.

• Re-engage LAUC and CoUL in a consultative process prior to finalizing policy changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to opine.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Cheung

Chair, Academic Council

Encl. (*Includes various documents running over 50 pages*)

cc: Academic Council

Executive Director Anders

Senate Division Executive Directors

Senate Executive Director Lin

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Source: https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/council-faap-ap-apm-360.pdf.

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/03/error-correction-really.html.

**UCPB = University Committee on Planning and Budget; UCAADE = University Committee on Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Equity; UCFW = University Committee on Faculty Welfare.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: UC

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Layoffs

From the Daily Bruin: *[The project director of the UCLA Samahang Pilipino Education and Retention] was... laid off from her job at SPEAR on June 30. Project directors said in a July 2 letter addressed to program members that Campus Life – a division of Student Affairs overseeing UCLA's Community Programs Office – told [them] the layoffs were due to federal directives that "reinterpret diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives as potentially non-compliant with anti-discrimination laws." [The SPEAR director was] one of five project directors of student-initiated retention and access programs who were laid off by Campus Life in June... UCLA Media Relations did not respond to a request for comment on the layoffs...*

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2025/07/06/ucla-lays-off-some-retention-access-program-staff-amid-federal-dei-scrutiny.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 35

From Inside Higher Ed: *A judge... threw out a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's new policy of enhanced social media scrutiny for student visa applicants... The plaintiffs argued that the State Department's requirements violated applicants' First Amendment protections by forcing them to unlock their social media accounts for review and barring entry for any applicant the department deems has demonstrated "any indications of hostility" toward the U.S.*

D.C. District Court Judge J. Michelle Childs, a Biden appointee, ruled that the case lacked standing on First Amendment grounds. The new State Department policy, which went into effect [in June], is the latest escalation of the administration's campaign to limit the number of foreign students at American colleges and universities...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/06/30/judge-dismisses-student-visa-social-media-vetting-case.

From Higher Ed Dive:

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 30

From the Harvard Crimson: *Harvard College will continue to admit waitlisted students to the Class of 2029 past the traditional June 30 deadline as the Trump administration's regulatory attacks threaten to prevent international students from attending...*

The Trump administration's threats have made it impossible for Harvard to know how many international admits will decide to enroll next year — and whether any will be able to attend at all. Faculty of Arts and Sciences spokesperson James M. Chisholm confirmed in a Monday statement that the decision to prolong waitlist admissions was based on uncertainty around international student enrollment, though no reasoning was offered in the Friday email to waitlisted applicants...

Students have the option to defer their acceptance to Harvard if they cannot obtain a visa by the time the school year starts. But if they enroll at other universities during that time period, they

would have to reapply to transfer to Harvard...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/7/1/waitlist-admissions-extended/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Harvard, politics

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